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No. 6 March 1986 Oppenheimer Software

This is the sixth edition of the Periodic Electronic Newsletter (PEN) for MCI Mail users assigned to Oppenheimer Software (MCI Mail agency NY4). You may respond to anything you read in the PEN by typing ANSWER at the COMMAND: line that appears after you read this. This is the same as CREATE[ing] an electronic message to Oppenheimer Software, except the MCI Mail system already knows to whom to send it. This mailbox is toll free - you may write to it as often as you wish, at no charge! (Please note that you may order a toll free mail box - contact Oppenheimer Software for more information.)

>>>>>>>>>
Your turn
>>>>>>>>>

Every April, the MCI Mail Independent Agencies from around the country meet with MCI Mail Inc. in sunny Washington DC for three days. This is the best opportunity to lobby for changes/improvements in the system.

I would appreciate it very much if you would take a few moments to ANSWER back to me your opinions on the following topics:

1. Should MCI Mail publish a directory? Would you want to be in that directory? If you answered "YES" to both questions, would your answer remain "YES" if you knew some companies might use the directory to send you informational MCI Mail letters (electronic) i.e. - advertisements?

2. What don't you like about MCI Mail?

3. What do you like best about MCI Mail?

4. What would encourage more people to subscribe to MCI Mail?

5. What current features would you like to see changed/eliminated?

6. What new features would you like to see on the system?

9. Do you receive adequate support from MCI Mail and from us?

10. Any other thoughts?

Please try to get your responses back to us within 1 week.

>>>>>>>>
Our turn
>>>>>>>>

PEN is growing too fast.

In an effort to keep it from competing with War and Peace in length, we will be publishing a shorter PEN more frequently. Accordingly, some of the articles that were scheduled for this issue are being moved to the April issue.

The previous schedule was 9 issues a year. We're going to try 12 issues instead. In addition, we will occasionally reprint articles that have appear in previous issues for the benefit of new subscribers.

Let us know how you like it.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Thought for a Day
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

I'm a little
fed up
with the
constant
criticism of
American
workmanship.
How other people
do their jobs is
their business.
But I do
good work
and I know it.
I have
perfected my
skills.
I make each
minute count.

When I make
a mistake
I correct it.
I would gladly
sign my name
to every piece of
work I do.
I'm going to
hang this message
over my work area
to let
my employer,
my customers,
my co-workers
know that
I take pride
in my
work.

>>
FLEA (Found/Lost/Exchanged/Acquired) Market
>>

Do you have any computer or communications equipment or software that you are looking to buy, sell or trade? Let us know. We will post your "notice" in future PEN newsletters for free. Your MCI ID will be included with the ad. No phone numbers or names will be allowed. Please keep your ad to under 200 words.

Please note:
The PEN newsletter provides the space for these ads as a public service. Neither Oppenheimer Software, nor MCI Mail are responsible for their content, and Oppenheimer Software reserves the right to refuse any ad for any reason.

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Qubie PC212 300/1200 baud inboard modem for IBM-PC and compatibles with Hayes command set and RS232 port. New in the fall of '84, installed and checked out then, but taken out of service in early '85. $150. MCI ID: 288-6466.

****

IDS Prism dot matrix printer- 80 column, 200 CPS, very heavy duty. Used under 10 hours. Retails for $1400 -priced to sell at $650. MCI ID# 218-0241.

****

Used Novation 1200 baud internal modem for PC and compatibles - works fine. $150. MCI ID: 218-0241

****

Compaq portable with 2 floppies, 512K - $1100 or best offer. Contact MCI ID: 203-5206

****

Spring Cleaning - used/new IBM PC/XT software for sale:

- Ashton Tate Friday - $75
- Open System Accounting - $1900 (cost $5995)
  (General Ledger,Acct. Payable,Acct. Rec., Purch Ord., Sales Ord.,Fixed Assets, Invt, Job Cost, Payroll!!!!)
- GOLDATAbase - $45
- PCPFP II Professional Accounting - $95 (costs $295)
- Hayes Smartcom - $75
- Wordplus PC Word processing - $95 (costs $495)
- Microsoft Business Basic Compiler - $95
- Enable System - $195

MCI ID# 218-0241

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2 FOR 1
>>>>>>>

I have bad news, and I have good news.

The bad news is that for every dollar you spent on your computers, you may be getting less then $.50 value at this time.

The good news is that you can correct this. Read on.

People using IBM PC or compatible computers have probably heard of the desktop program called SIDEKICK. It is a memory resident program that can interrupt the currently executing program, a perform specific functions such as a calculator, memo pad, appointment calender, etc. When SIDEKICK is terminated, the interrupted program resumes. In effect, we have two programs in memory at the same time, although only one is actually doing anything at a given point in time. None the less, SIDEKICK, due to its low price and functionality in any environment has become a top selling program.

We are now heading towards new demands from the user community for increasing the value of our computers. This value (the other $.50 of that dollar) can be achieved through a technique called multitasking.

Most of the time, you computer is idle. When you are using a word processor, typing as fast as you can, the computer responds to your keystrokes fast enough to be left waiting quite a while awaiting your next keystroke. Even if your program is printing a document while you are typing away, the speed of the computer allows it plenty of "wait states".

The key to getting more from your computer is to use these wasted moments in time to make the computer do something else that is useful - the same multitasking that allows you to type while talking on the phone.

Several programs have come on the market to accomplish this task, although all of them have drawbacks. The two best known are TOPVIEW from IBM and WINDOWS from Microsoft. However, reviewers have complained that TOPVIEW is too slow and takes up too much memory, while WINDOWS allows multitasking only from programs specifically designed to work with it (almost none at this time).

Our experience with two lesser known competitors called DOUBLE DOS and DESQview has been favorable. Two (Double Dos) or nine (DESQview) programs actually run at the same time in the computer (assuming you have enough memory for both programs plus another 40K for DOUBLE DOS, or 150 for DESQview) much to the delight of the operator. Imagine running CROSSTALK or SMARTCOM to download PEN from MCI MAIL, while working on a Lotus 123 spreadsheet at the same time!

DOUBLE DOS
Some of the programs on the market do require minor modification to work with Double DOS, but the Double DOS package includes files and information to help you with the changes. When you are running the two programs, you will see only one program on the screen at a time. The other program is running on an "invisible" screen. To see the second screen, you press <ALT><ESC>. You may notice minor delays in some programs when two programs are run at the same time (the IBM computer is not the swiftest horse in the corral), but this should not be too much of a problem.

DESQview on the other hand, does not require modifications to any programs - it uses its own "loaders" to accomplish the needed alterations. The first surprise from DESQview is that it will locate all of the programs it knows about (most of the major names in the market) on your hard disk and set itself up to work those packages. Additional programs can be added to the list as needed.

Since DESQview can run up to 9 programs at the same time, and since that would require more then the available RAM in most computers, programs not needed at a given moment are swapped out to disk for temporary storage until more space becomes available in RAM - just like larger time sharing computers.

DESQview also allows most DOS functions (DIR, COPY, etc.) to be performed from within any program. Any of the nine screens can be moved about the screen, resized, or recolored to meet your passing whimsy.

After looking at both programs very closely, we've started using DESQview for most of operations. Both programs are good, but DESQview has more power and versatility - we like it and it works.

>>>>>>>>>>>>
TELEX UPDATE
>>>>>>>>>>>>

*****FREE OFFER*****

MCI Mail will notify up to 10 overseas telex subscribers of your telex address at no cost to you. All you do is send a message

TO: MCIMAIL ACCOUNT CHANGES
and include your: name
- company name and address (if appropriate)

Your correspondents': name (personal, company or both)
- address (city and country)
- telex number and answerback

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
TELEX DIRECTORIES
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Listed below are the major telex directories and how you may obtain them.

U.S. DIRECTORY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS
Contact: U.S. Directory for Telecommunications Subscribers
-         P.O. Box 431
-         Wall Street Station
-         New York, NY 10268
Cost: $11.50

JAEGER & WALDMANN
Contact: Universal Media
-         P.O. Box 45
-         Bethpage, NY 11714
Telephone: (516) 433-6767
Cost: Vol. 1 & 2 (Europe) - $40 plus $8 shipping
-      Vol. 3 & 4 (U.S. and Far East) - $40 plus $8 shipping
-      Vol. 5 & 6 (Classified) - $40 plus $8 shipping
-      Vol. 7 & 8 (Answerback codes) - $40 plus $8 shipping
-      All Volumes - $125 plus $24 shipping

THE GREEN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORIES
Contact: Teleprint International (Customer Service Office)
-         P.O. Box 3796
-         Chico, CA 95927
Telephone: (916) 342-5458
Cost: The Green African Telex Directory - $26
-      The Green American Telex Directory - $44
-      The Green Asian/Australian Directory - $38
-      The Green European Directory - $66
-      The Worldwide Set - $160

NOTE: You will be charged an additional 40% import and sales tax
-      plus shipping expenses.

>>>>>>>>>>>>
Classic Corn
>>>>>>>>>>>>
Why did the very sad person cross the Road?
 To get to the other sigh.

Safecracker: An unarmed saltine

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Electronic Pager
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
CUE - The First Nationwide Pager

This system enables messaging all across the country and is not limited by regions like conventional pagers. The CUE pager works on a unique scanning capability which operates in any part of the country that is covered by the CUE FM network. At this time that reach extends to 92% of the US population. The CUE hand held unit (2.2x0.8x4.0 inches, 6 oz.) listens for the strongest available signal via FM broadcast bands. As you move from a location, the unit scans for another signal. The unit stores up to six 12 - digit messages. If you do leave scanning range, it alerts you and your messages are sent to an audible number Voice Retrieval Service available by 800 #. With CUE you NEVER miss a page !

CUE is available at $48-/Month for a 90 day rental test. This includes the rental of the unit, 22 free messages per month (overcalls are 75 cents per call) and loss protection coverage. At the end of this test period the CUE unit may be purchased for $485- or financed on a 9 month term. Message air time then is available at $25-/month for 22 messages and 75 cents for additional calls. Voice Retrieval Service calls are charged at 65 cents. Contact Oppenheimer Software (218-0241) for more info.

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COMMUNICATE WITH COMPUSERVE!
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Now, you can exchange electronic mail with CompuServe subscribers!

It's as easy as sending an MCI Mail message. You can send messages to anyone who uses CompuServe's EasyPlex service or to companies who subscribe to CompuServe's InfoPlex service.

And, there is no extra charge -- you pay the same prices as for any MCI Mail Instant Letter (see HELP PRICES). All you need to know is your recipient's CompuServe address.

You may also want to provide your recipients with your MCI Mail address and the instructions for sending you an MCI Mail message from CompuServe

To send your message to a CompuServe subscriber:

1. At Command, type CREATE as if you were creating an MCI Mail message.
2. At TO, type the correspondent's name and EMS in parentheses. For
   For example: TO: Pete Chandler (EMS)
3. At EMS, type COMPUSERVE and press Return.
   For example: Enter name of mail system.
   EMS: COMPUSERVE
   288-7782 COMPUSERVE
   Compuserve Info,
   Columbus, OH

4. At MBX, type the recipient's address as it is known on the Compuserve system.

   For example:
   ```
   EasyPlex: Enter recipient's mailbox information.
         MBX:      70007,1652
   InfoPlex:       Enter recipient's mailbox information.
         MBX:      ACME:JRS
   ```

   Verify the recipient address. Be sure that you it accurately so that your message is delivered properly.

5. At the next MBX, press Return to end this recipient's address. If additional mailbox lines are not needed press RETURN.
   ```
   MBX:  [RETURN]
   ```
6. The address is displayed for your approval. Type YES if the address is accurate; or type NO if there is an error.

   For example:
   ```
   TO:       Pete Chandler
   EMS: COMPUSERVE / MCI ID: 288-7782
   MBX: 70007,1651
   Is this address correct (Yes or No)? YES
   ```
7. When the next TO or CC appears, type the next recipient's name. Each CompuServe recipient must be entered individually at TO or CC.

To send a message from CompuServe to an MCI Mail user:

1. Compose your message and prepare to send as usual.
2. At the address prompt, type the recipient's MCI Mail ID. Be sure to use the format exactly as it appears here. If you omit a space or a colon, your message will not be deliverable.

   For example:
   ```
   EasyPlex:
   Send to (Name or User ID): >MCIMAIL 272-8358
   InfoPlex:
   /Send >MCI:275-8358
   ```
3. Complete and send your message as usual. If your message cannot be delivered, you will be notified electronically. Check the address to be sure you used the correct format and verify the recipient's MCI Mail ID then send your message again.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Next time.......
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The next issue of PEN will contain:
>A review of WordPerfect- a great word processor
>An overview of Dow Jones features

It will also describe how you can send binary files (Lotus worksheets!) by MCI Mail, how to create and use mailing lists on MCI Mail, and of course, your Flea Market ads!

Till then......
Gary.......
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